

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. – 20. (Cancelled)
21. (Original) A method to prevent or treat contrast nephropathy in a mammalian patient undergoing a radiographic procedure comprising: a. artificially increasing pressure in a urinary tract of at least one kidney of the patient; b. injecting the contrast agent into a blood vessel of the patient, and c. reducing pressure in the urinary tract of the kidney.
22. (Original) A method as in claim 21 further comprising reducing a renal function of the during a period in which the contrast agent is in the blood of the patient.
23. (previously presented) A method as in claim 21 further comprising, prior to step (a), identifying the patient from a group of patients suffering from one or more of a group of illnesses consisting of chronic renal disease, diabetes and old age, wherein the identified patient is determined to be at particular risk during injection of a contrast agent.
24. (Original) A method as in claim 21 wherein reducing the pressure returns the urinary tract to a pressure that existed before injection of the contrast agent.
25. (Original) A method as in claim 21 wherein the increase of pressure in the urinary tract is

temporary.

26. (Original) A method as in claim 21 wherein the increase in the pressure in the urinary tract is reversible.

27. (Original) A method as in claim 21 wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are preformed sequentially.

28. (Original) The method as in claim 21 wherein the urinary tract pressure is increased at least to a pressure of 10 to 20 cmH₂O above a pressure level in the urinary tract before step (a).

29. (Original) The method as in claim 21 wherein the urinary tract pressure is increased prior to the administration of the contrast agent to the patient.

30. (Original) The method as in claim 29 wherein the urinary tract pressure is a pressure in a bladder of the patient.

31. (Original) The method as in claim 21 wherein the urinary tract pressure is increased for at least one hour.

32. (Original) The method as in claim 21 wherein the urinary tract pressure is increased by

artificially infusing fluid into a bladder of the patient.

33. (Original) The method as in claim 32 wherein the infused fluid flows into the bladder of the patient without first flowing through the kidney.

34. (Original) The method as in claim 32 wherein the infused fluid flows into the bladder through a urethra of the patient prior to entering the bladder.

35. – 97. (Cancelled)